



**US Army Corps  
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Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# News Release

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Contact: Nola Conway

Phone: (509) 527-7020

## Corps soliciting comments on Little Bay stewardship project at Dworshak

**Walla Walla, Wash.,** -- The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments on an environmental assessment of a stewardship project at Dworshak Dam and Reservoir near Ahsahka, Idaho. The Corps is proposing to selectively remove trees and conduct low-intensity prescribed burns. The purpose of the project is to restore a healthy forest environment.

"By selectively removing small trees within overstocked stands and using prescribed underburns in areas that have been suppressed from fire, we can imitate the effects of a natural wildfire to improve forest health and restore forest conditions that are beneficial to native wildlife," said Russ Davis, wildlife biologist at Dworshak Dam. Fire suppression in this area has created overstocked and unnatural forest conditions resulting in less available habitat for certain rare species. It has also increased the risk of catastrophic fire and increased disease and beetle infestation, Davis said.

The proposed project area is located along the Dworshak Reservoir near Canyon Creek between River Mile 7 and River Mile 11. Approximately 1,300 acres have been assessed, of which 685 acres are proposed for treatment using selective tree removal and prescribed burns. Prescribed burns will be conducted in accordance with a burn plan approved by the State of Idaho. "Burn plans will describe specific environmental conditions under which the burns must be conducted to ensure safety and meet project objectives," said Davis. The project could begin as early as this year and is expected to extend over a 5-year period.

The Corps' environmental assessment of the project, with a draft finding of no significant impact, is available for review on the Corps web site at [www.nww.usace.army.mil/LittleBayEA](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/LittleBayEA). In addition, the environmental assessment is available at the Dworshak Resource Management Office, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Interested parties are invited to provide comments on the draft environmental assessment of the proposed project during the review period that ends May 13. Comments should be submitted no later than that date to be considered. Send comments by mail to: Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Compliance Branch, Attn: James S. Smith, 201 N. Third Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362. Comments may also be submitted through the website using the electronic comment form, or as an electronic file attachment.

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876  
Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824 CELL (509) 520-1468  
Web site: [www.nww.usace.army.mil](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil) E-mail: [cenww-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenww-pa@usace.army.mil)

For more information, or to receive a copy of the report, contact Smith at (509) 527-7244.

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876  
Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824 CELL (509) 520-1468  
Web site: [www.nwww.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwww.usace.army.mil) E-mail: [cenww-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenww-pa@usace.army.mil)